United Nations

A/71/612

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 November 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Agenda items 17 and 68

Macroeconomic policy questions

Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 10 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Writing on behalf of the Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and Republic of Tajikistan), I have the honour to transmit the attached statement of the Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on inadmissibility of unilateral coercive measures, sanctions and blockades in intergovernmental relations (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 17, "Macroeconomic policy questions", and 68, "Human rights".

(Signed) Andrei **Dapkiunas**

16-19976 (E) 161116 161116

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 10 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the inadmissibility of unilateral coercive measures, sanctions and blockades in international relations

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization,

Guided by the fundamental principles of international law and reaffirming their commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and to the development of cooperation, partnership and friendly relations among countries for peace and the development of good-neighbourly relations,

Declare the inadmissibility, except in accordance with Security Council resolutions, of the use of unilateral political, economic or any other coercive measures by one State, or a group of States, against another State.

We are deeply convinced that unilateral actions such as political isolation, blockades and economic, commercial and financial sanctions violate the principles of peace and good neighbourliness, undermine the legitimate rights and interests of States, impede free trade and lead to increased tension in international relations.

The use of coercive economic measures or the imposition of blockades against other States undermines the foundations of international and regional cooperation and integration.

We believe that cooperation among States should be conducted in accordance with international law and should be based on solidarity, transparency and equal partnership, without discrimination and with full respect for their mutual interests.

We note that the application of unilateral coercive measures, sanctions and blockades against any State affects not only the interests of that State as a whole, but also leads to the violation of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

We strongly oppose the use of political or economic levers of pressure aimed at coercing third States into acceding to the initiatives of unilateral coercive measures, sanctions and blockades.

We are deeply convinced that further efforts to build a free, democratic world community, in accordance with the generally accepted purposes and principles of the United Nations, will not be possible in the context of sanctions, blockades and closed borders, with the exception of measures adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter.

We consider it inadmissible to violate the principles of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and to apply a selective approach to their implementation.

Convinced that the peaceful resolution of disputes is the best way to overcome disagreements among parties, the States members of the Collective Security Treaty

Organization call upon all countries to strictly abide by a spirit of peaceful and good-neighbourly relations in forging inter-State relations and to reject the policy of blockades, isolation and economic pressure.